

Series I
Correspondence,
1932-1973

Box 7, Folder 16

January 1, 1962 -
October 30, 1962

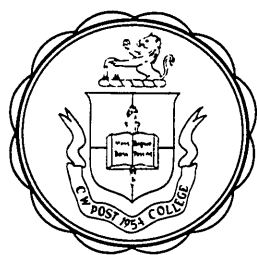
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Incoming Personal, 1962

C. W. Post College, 1 January 1962 from Dick Conolly
Admiral Conolly's reflections on his Presidency of Long
Island University.

Rubottom letter from Naval War College, 30 October 1962
Extraordinarily interesting comment of Fidel Castro and
his rise to power in Cuba.

Return to RADM RWT Sales



C. W. Post College

of

Long Island University

NORTHERN BOULEVARD • BROOKVILLE • NEW YORK

MAILING ADDRESS: P. O. BOX 247, GREENVALE, NEW YORK

• TELEPHONE: MAYFAIR 6-1200

THE PRESIDENT

January 1962

Dear Rafe,

Now that the New Year is here I am writing letters to make up for past derelictions. It was good to hear from you today. I have tried several times to reach you by phone but you seem to be incommunicado nowadays. Do you turn the phone off in your apartment or don't you live there any more?

I thought that I was going to see you at the game and that, anyhow, you would call up on your way back through New York

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returning to Newport. We missed you and hope that before, or after your Antarctic safari you will make us a visit. We can promise beefsteak and Kidney pie (which I ask for now and then only to be told that we will have it when you come to see us). I have some good French red wine to go with it.

I am really looking forward to quitting the job and starting a new life of leisure. This job has built up so that there are too many minor demands and the tempo and pressure of the day-to-day events become annoying. Many of these requirements are inherent; built-in and inescapable representation. I am an empire builder and the fun has been the building, not the operation of the institution, nor the representation - frontman business.

The bigger it gets, the more the President has to do and I am firmly convinced that I have made my contribution and that a different kind of guy is now needed to take it from here. I think that a lot of these old college presidents stay on too long and inhibit the development of their institutions. Nine years will be enough of me in this place and my principal job now is to find a suitable successor to do a different kind of job than I had to do.

I do hope that you have a fine cruise out to Antarctica and back - it sure sounds interesting. We were delighted to hear that your heart is now all right. Take good care of yourself and let us see you soon. Again I say, "Happy New Year".
Wick

*Please
return! a
gentle answer turneth
away wrath. Jack*

THE ARMSTRONG RUBBER COMPANY
WEST HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

FREDERICK MACHLIN
PRESIDENT

February 5, 1962

Rear Admiral Richard W. Bates, U.S.N. (Ret.)
12 Mount Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island

My dear Admiral Bates:

Your letter of February 2 reached me this morning.

Your visit to our annual stockholders' meeting January 18 of this year was an interesting experience for us. We have in the past had a very small attendance of stockholders at our annual meetings, and we appreciated the interest you have in our company which prompted you to take the trouble to visit us.

I have taken careful note of that portion of your letter which outlines your reaction as a stockholder. Your comments will be given very careful consideration, so that we may indicate to our stockholders at future meetings that they are most welcome to visit us and spend some time with us.

With reference to luncheon, please be informed that we made no provision for luncheon for stockholders, although Mr. McVay and Mr. Keegan certainly did extend to you a cordial invitation to join them at luncheon. The directors found it necessary to hold other meetings immediately after their luncheon.

You are mistaken in your assumption that our Chairman was alarmed because you indicated that the stockholders' meeting was "canned." I believe his reaction was similar to mine in that we were surprised you would so designate that meeting, because certainly you were permitted to make any statement you wished to make, and there was no tendency on the part of management to either rush you or shut you off. As a matter of fact, I welcomed your interest and discussion.

I am sure I will receive much of value on the suggestions contained in the balance of your letter, which, as stated above, will be given careful consideration.

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Rear Admiral Richard W. Bates
February 5, 1962
Page 2

We certainly also have it in mind to give careful thought to the diversification of our activities where we feel that it will help our company and be of benefit to our stockholders.

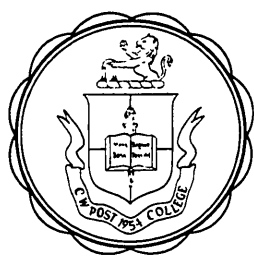
I do not consider that your letter of February 2 was critical; but on the contrary, believe you make the suggestions you do because you feel they might be helpful to us in the conduct and management of this business.

Your good wishes for the success of our company are much appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. MacArthur", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

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C. W. Post College of

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THE PRESIDENT

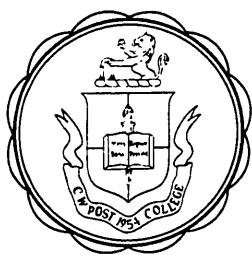
13 February 1962

Dear Rafe,

It was good to hear from you and to know what had happened to you. My agents reported that you were unaccountably missing from the Newport scene. I was sorry to hear about the plumbing difficulty. I hope by now it has been remedied with no complications. Please keep us informed of progress.

We will leave here for La Jolla two weeks from today, arriving in San Diego about 7:15 p.m. It has been so cold and snowy around here that we will be glad to get into a better climate. Also I will be glad to have a good rest and so will Abby. We really relax out there. We will be there

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THE PRESIDENT

during March and, if you can get down to the "Southland", we would be glad to have you with us. There is usually a lot of sunshine in that month and balmy in the middle of the day.

The Charter Day Dinner came off last Wednesday. We had Romulo as the speaker and it was the best yet. We netted about \$45,000 for our scholarship fund. Everything is going well. We had our accreditation reaffirmed for ten years. Now we are looking for a relief for me. It is tough going even though it is a much more desirable job than nine years ago. I tell them that they need a different kind of guy now than they did then and they must get a member

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PAGE(S)**

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Dear Admiral Bates,

Very many thanks indeed
for the kind invitation to join
you and your friends at such
a delightful lunch, and to
have the honour of meeting
there Admiral Spruance who
as you said was the greatest of
them all.

Delightful company and a
delicious meal I am most
grateful for your kindness in
asking me

Yours sincerely
Quentin Turner.

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NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
NEWPORT, R. I.

JUN 25 1962

Dear Rafe:

May I again extend to you my deep appreciation for your outstanding contribution to our Fourteenth Annual Global Strategy Discussions. Your participation in the discussions of the various facets of a strategy for our country was most helpful in making the Discussions successful and stimulating.

We expect to continue the Discussions next year, and again plan to invite outstanding civilian leaders from all sections of our country. We also plan to continue having the senior reserves participate as part of their two weeks active duty for training. If you know of any outstanding civilians or senior reserve officers (flag officers, captains or commanders) you feel you can recommend as being of a caliber appropriate to future Discussions, we should like to hear from you. The enclosed nomination forms are for your convenience.

Again, thank you for your participation in our 1962 Discussions. It is always a pleasure to see you and I hope you will visit us here at the College any time you are in the area.

Sincerely,



B. L. AUSTIN

Rear Admiral Richard W. Bates, USN (Ret.)
12 Mount Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island

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THE NATIONAL CYCLOPEDIA OF AMERICAN BIOGRAPHY

THE FOREMOST BIOGRAPHICAL AUTHORITY OF THE UNITED STATES

101 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 3, N.Y.

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

JAMES T. WHITE & CO.
PUBLISHERS
(Founded in 1873)

October 5, 1962

Rear Adm. Richard Waller Bates
12 Mt. Vernon St.
Newport, R. I.

Dear Admiral Bates:

Your biography is scheduled for inclusion in a forthcoming volume of this Cyclopedia, a standard reference work found in leading public, educational, historical, newspaper and governmental libraries throughout this country, as well as abroad.

Since 1888 we have continuously been compiling and publishing a record based on original source material of the achievements of distinguished Americans in every field of endeavor. This has resulted in the well-merited reputation for authenticity the publication now enjoys.

To enable us to prepare a comprehensive and accurate biography we would indeed appreciate your cooperation in filling in and returning the enclosed form.

Very truly yours,



WILLIAM HORTON
Managing Editor

WE:LG

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NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF STATE ADVISER

October 30, 1962

Rear Admiral R. W. Bates, U.S. Navy
12 Mount Vernon Avenue
Newport, Rhode Island

Dear Rafe:

I appreciated your phone call regarding the editorial last week in the New York Mirror critical of my actions in the government for I realize you were motivated by friendship and loyalty toward me. There have been other critical opinions expressed, some signed and some unsigned, as well as comments by broadcasters, including one with a large audience in my home state of Texas. None of this has been easy to live with.

It helps to recall John 8:32, "Ye shall know the Truth, and the Truth shall make you free."

While being "free" in the spiritual sense, one is severely tested waiting for the Truth to do its work. Similarly, our nation is being tested by the challenge of international communism. This evil thing, with its tentacles reaching in all directions, is the real target of these writers. What release we would all feel if we could better come to grips with this enemy.

I fully share this abhorrence of communism and the all-compelling desire to get rid of it. Since 1937, when as Assistant Dean of Student Life at the University of Texas I encountered communist elements who were trying to penetrate and use certain bona fide organizations on that campus, I have actively fought the communists wherever I could. After more than five years in the Navy, I determined on a career in the Foreign Service of the United States not only to help defend our country against the communists and others who were trying to destroy us, but, on the constructive side, to use my education and experience on behalf of the best interests of the United States. This has been the dynamic, moving force of my life along with my spiritual faith.

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No human being is infallible. Despite the highest motivation and best of intentions we all make mistakes, but we try to correct them where possible and to keep them to a minimum. Making due allowances for this human quality, let us throw the light of truth on some of the allegations which apparently prompted the editorial in question.

One columnist recently wrote that "Batista was knocked off by the United States". Yet, in yesterday's New York Times, Professor Seymour Mellman wrote "The United States was a long time supporter of an evil Cuban dictatorship under Batista". Both allegations cannot be true. Neither is true. The Cuban people themselves determined to be rid of Batista, and so brought about his downfall. Batista tried for 26 months to destroy Castro and a handful of followers who survived that landing on Cuba's east coast in late October, 1956. Cuban officers and soldiers just would not fight for Batista. The Cubans tragically followed the simple but mistaken syllogism: "Batista is bad; Castro is against Batista; therefore, Castro must be all right." Don't you find it strange that some Americans should have their country assume responsibility for Castro's coming to power when not even Cubans themselves try to evade responsibility for that?

Just as the above syllogism was wrong, so was the obverse of it: "Castro is bad; Batista is against Castro; therefore, Batista should remain in power." The plain truth is that Cuba was racing toward a change. The great challenge to the Cuban people was whether that change was to be constructive, peaceful, and carried out under freedom tempered by justice. Indeed, this is the challenge which faces all of Latin America and the other developing countries of the world. This has been and continues to be the challenge which faces the United States as it forges policies to deal with these situations of ferment and change.

By 1958, the United States was being subjected to increasing criticism, at home and abroad, due to alleged "support of" and "favoritism toward dictatorships". Some critics were sincerely against all kinds of dictatorships, as indeed was the policy of the Government. Others had a double standard--while inveighing against Batista, Trujillo, and their kind, they found no fault with the Guatemala Communist stooge, Arbenz, who was ousted in 1954. But the

tide against dictators had turned. So determined was Vice President Nixon to remove the stigma of the above allegation that, during his 1958 South American trip, he said that the U.S. should offer only a formal handshake for the dictators, while offering an "abrazo" to the democratic leaders. This line was repeated by Dr. Milton Eisenhower in his November report of the same year, after traveling through Central America. Suffice to say, these statements did not satisfy the critics any more than they helped Batista who by then was on his last legs in the "war" against Castro.

What was known about Castro prior to his takeover of the Cuban Government? Certainly that he had been an unstable revolutionary since his student days; that he was dedicated to the overthrow of Batista; that his announced program of "reforms" would bring sharp changes to Cuba, including some adverse to the United States. This was enough to raise serious doubts about him. But it could not be proved then that Castro was a communist. Hardly a meeting went by with my colleagues in C.I.A. that we didn't discuss this question.* Jules Dubois, hard-hitting Chicago Tribune specialist on Latin America was convinced that Castro was not Red.** So were nearly all Cubans. The President of the Cuban Barcardi Rum Company, José M. Bosch, and many of his fellow-citizens contributed huge sums to Castro.#

Let us examine another allegation. On March 18, 1958, the United States prohibited a shipment of arms to the Batista government. This decision was undoubtedly taken by our government after a careful weighing at that time of all the facts at hand, apparently in the hope that the United States could disengage itself to some extent from what was a purely Cuban struggle. While the Batista followers were sharply critical of this action by the United States, the pro-Castro forces at home and abroad bitterly condemned the United States for not withdrawing its military mission in Cuba at the same time. As to my alleged role in the March 18, 1958 decision, I was on leave, had been away from Washington three days and heard about it on the radio as I was driving through my home state of Texas with my family. Needless to say, I was surprised enough by the action that I stopped at the first telephone to call Washington to confirm it, after hearing it announced on the radio.

* As late as November 1959 the Deputy Director of CIA, Lt.Gen. C.P. Cabell, told the Senate Internal Security Sub-committee that "We believe that Castro is not a member of the Communist Party and and does not consider himself to be a Communist."

**See quotations from Dubois Book on Castro, in Appendix

#See quotation from ltr of José Bosch to N.Y. Times, Mar. 24, 1961 in Appendix

One of the most surprising allegations from newspaper critics has to do with the government's part, and inferentially mine, in Castro's visit to the United States in April 1959. The facts are that the National Association of Editors invited Castro to come to the United States. The Government learned about it after the invitation had already been extended and accepted. The committee of editors who invited Castro are well-known and have not denied their responsibility for this action. Castro, of course, received the official treatment that was required under the circumstances while he was in Washington. It is well known, however, that the trip provided Castro with an invaluable forum to hoodwink people in the United States, including many of the editors themselves who invited him. It enhanced his prestige before his own people and others in Latin America. On the top platforms of this country he was able to say that he was not a communist, that he welcomed U.S. investment, and that U.S. property rights would be respected. This performance by him delayed the difficult process of denigration for months if not years.

Now let me turn to the attempted invasion of Cuba by Anti-Castro Cubans on April 17, 1961. For background one can read much, but the common references are Fortune Magazine, September 1961, Saturday Evening Post (Stewart Alsop) of June 24, 1961, and more recently, a largely factual and highly critical book, "The Cuban Invasion", by Tad Szulc and Karl Meyer. Regardless of one's views as to the decision to assist the invaders, or the manner in which it was done, there are a few facts which are not disputed.

The essence of the invasion was to overthrow Castro. It followed a carefully charted U.S. policy which required Castro to show his true colors. It came after the OAS had had the opportunity to act collectively against Castro, under the Rio Treaty, but had been unwilling to do. The attempt was supported by the United States, although no U.S. troops were in the landings. The preparations required more than a year. The decision to aid the Anti-Castroites was taken at the highest level of our Government, in which, as you know, I occupied a policy level position. After April 17, 1961, the basis for calculations over 1 1/2 years had to be completely revised.

While my own lips are sealed, I sometimes think it strange that my critics have deduced nothing from the propinquity of my Government position in 1959-60 and the decision of the U.S. to help bring an end to Castro. This decision is still cardinal to U.S. policy toward Cuba, although the timing and method have perforce been altered.

Please excuse the length of this letter. This is a large subject.

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dick", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

R. R. Rubottom, Jr.

APPENDIX #

QUOTATION FROM LETTER OF JOSÉ BOSCH TO NEW YORK
TIMES, MARCH 24, 1961

" . . . It would perhaps be convenient to explain that Mr. Fidel Castro actually waged the revolution against the regime of Batista solely with the ideology of returning the country to a regime in which our Constitution would once more be the Law of the Land; in which elections were to be celebrated so that the people could elect the representatives they desired and give their elected representatives a mandate to perform a few necessary reforms. In fact, Mr. Castro repeatedly promised that he did not desire to govern the country after the fall of Batista. It is only necessary to review the writings of Mr. Matthews of a few years ago, not to mention the declarations and writings of Mr. Castro himself, to prove these statements.

Instead of keeping his word, Mr. Castro has decided to communize the country by force and tyranny, by murder and jail terms, and has converted our Constitution into a mere piece of paper."

APPENDIX **

QUOTATION FROM JULES DUBOIS' BOOK "FIDEL CASTRO"
Chapter 2, Page 24

No priest had been killed in Bogota, and the boast of Rafael del Pino was nothing more than that, without any basis in fact. The author had luncheon with the Apostolic Delegate to Colombia at the Italian embassy a week later, and he reported that he had not received any word of casualties in the clergy. His own residence and embassy had been destroyed by fire set by enraged arsonists. Much damage had been done in churches where pews had been hurled out onto the streets, and bonfires were set with some of the debris.

But Del Pino's boast was to give Fidel Castro's enemies a thin thread on which to hang their accusations that he was a "Communist." The Cuban Ambassador to Bogota submitted a report to the Ministry of State in Havana in which he recorded the boast, and this was amplified to place the blame on Castro.

APPENDIX **

QUOTATION FROM JULES DUBOIS' BOOK "FIDEL CASTRO"

Bobbs Merrill 1959

Page 262

(DUBOIS)

"Q. / You are accused of being a Communist or a Communist sympathizer because you were in Bogota in 1948 for an Anti-Imperialist Student Congress and participated in the events of April 9 in the Colombian capital. Are you or have you ever been a Communist?

(CASTRO)

"A. / I do not see any relation between the premise that you point out and the conclusion that because of it I am classified as a Communist or a Communist sympathizer. I was one of the organizers of this Congress, and it had as one of its essential objectives to fight against dictatorship in America. On April 9 I joined a mob that marched against a police station. They were followers of Jorge Elecier Gaitan, chief of the opposition Liberal Party, assassinated that afternoon for political motives.

"I did what all the Colombian students did: I joined the people. As far as I was able to, I tried everything possible to prevent the fires and disorders that carried that rebellion to failure, but I was no more than a drop of water in the midst of the tempest. I could have died there, as many anonymous fighters fell, and perhaps nobody would have had any more news about my existence. My conduct could not have been more disinterested and altruistic, and I do not regret having acted in that way because it honors me. Is this any reason to suspect me of Communism?

"I never have been nor am I a Communist. If I were I would have sufficient courage to proclaim it. I do not recognize anybody as a judge of the world before whom anyone must give an account of his ideas. Each man has a right to think with absolute freedom. I have reiterated often how I think, but I understand that this is a question that every North American newspaperman feels compelled to ask.

(DUBOIS)

"Q. / The movement which you head is accused of being a Communist movement. What is the political ideology of this movement?

(CASTRO)

"A. / The only person interested in branding our movement as Communist is Dictator Batista in order to continue obtaining arms from the United States, which country in this manner is staining itself with the blood of the assassinated Cubans and is earning the antipathy and the hostility of one of the peoples of America who most love liberty and human rights."

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